Malnutrition in Madhya Pradesh

1470. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has the highest number of malnourished children in the world with Madhya Pradesh being the worst affected State;

(b) whether it is a fact that 47 per cent of under five children in the country numbering 57 million are underweight; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to provide proper nutrition to newborn children in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) As per UNICEF report titled "Progress for Children, A Report Card on Nutrition No. 4, May, 2006" 39.04% of the underweight children under 5 years in the World are from India.

The National level data on undernourishment among children is compiled through the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) conducted by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. As per NFHS-2 (1998-99), Madhya Pradesh has the highest percentage (55.1%) of underweight children.

(c) Malnutrition is a multifaceted problem which requires a series of actions in the area of food security, safe drinking water and sanitation, health care, family welfare, nutrition and poverty alleviation. The Government is implemented several programmes which, directly or indirectly improve the nutritional status of children, including newborn. These programmes are:

(i) Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme (Ministry of Women & Child Development);

(ii) Reproductive & Child Health Programme, (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare);

(iii) National Nutritional Anaemia Control Programme, (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare),

(iv) National Prophylaxis Programme against Blindness due to Vitamin-A, (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare);

(v) National Iodine Deficiency Control Programme, (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare);

(vi) National Rural Employment Guarantee and other Poverty Alleviation Programmes, (Ministry of Rural Development);

(vii) National Programme for Nutritional support to Primary Education (Mid-day Meal Scheme), (Department of Elementary Education & Literacy);

(viii) Targeted Public Distribution System, (Department of Food & Consumer Affairs);

(ix) A Pilot project in 51 districts to provide free foodgrains to undernourished adolescent girls, (Ministry of Women & Child Development);

(x) National Rural Health Mission (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare).

NCAER survey of anganwadi infrastructure

1471. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NCAER has made any rapid facility survey of infrastructure at anganwadi centres throughout the country and has also made a study to evaluate the pace of implementation of Integrated Child Development Scheme Projects;

(b) if so, the highlights and main outcome of such survey/study;

(c) the amount sanctioned to various States, particularly Andhra Pradesh under various ICDS schemes during the last two years and the number of beneficiaries under these schemes;

(d) whether misappropriation of Central fund under these schemes has been noticed by Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in each such case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir. The National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER)